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1993
36

SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



BY
STERN,
GUICE &
RODIER

KRYPTONIAN NO MORE!

DIRECT SALES

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**WHERE
BLOODLINES
END...**

BLOOD BATH

**HEROES.
PARASITES.
NEW BLOOD.
CARNAGE.**

**IN TWO PARTS
COMING IN OCTOBER**



THE LAST PURGE OF KRYPTON!

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WRITER

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JACKSON DENIS
GUICE & RODIER
ARTISTS

BILL
OAKLEY
LETTERER

GLENN
WHITMORE
COLORIST

FRANK
PITTARESE
ASSOCIATE

MIKE
CARLIN
EDITOR

ANTARCTICA...

WHAT THE
DEVIL--? THE ICE
HAS BEEN SHATTERED--
IT'S SUBSIDED LIKE
SOME BIG
SINKHOLE--

--DIRECTLY
OVER THE SPOT
WHERE THE
FORTRESS
OF SOLITUDE
IS BURIED!

SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER



WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?!

THE FORTRESS WAS SECURE WHEN I LAST LEFT IT -- *

* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #503.



-- BUT IT'S NOT EVEN INTACT NOW! WHAT A MESS!

THE FORTRESS HELD THE LAST FEW FUNCTIONING EXAMPLES OF KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY. THEY'RE GONE NOW... THEY'RE ALL GONE.

WHO COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING? FEW PEOPLE ARE EVEN AWARE THAT THIS LITTLE HIDEAWAY EXISTS.

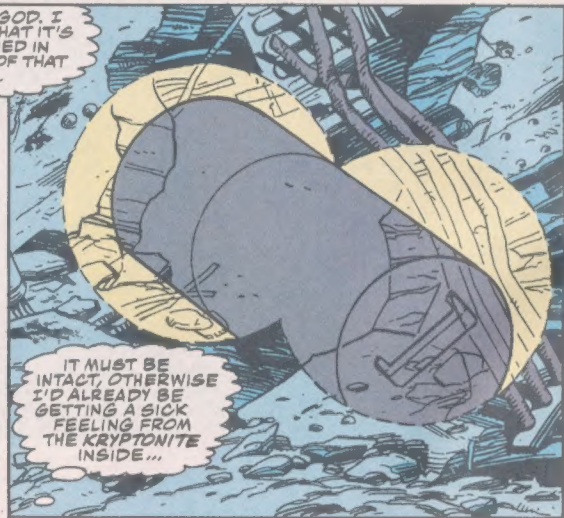
HEMM... THAT MANIAC LOBO FOUND THE FORTRESS ONCE. * COULD HE HAVE COME BACK IN A RAGE AND TAKEN IT OUT ON THE PLACE?

* IN SUPERMAN #41 & ADVENTURES #464.

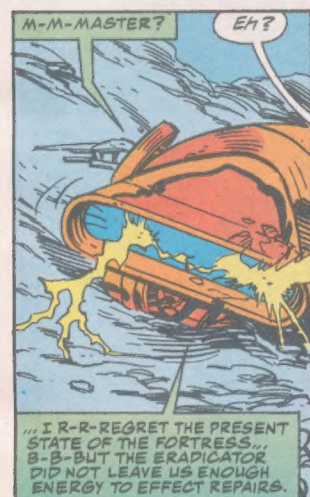
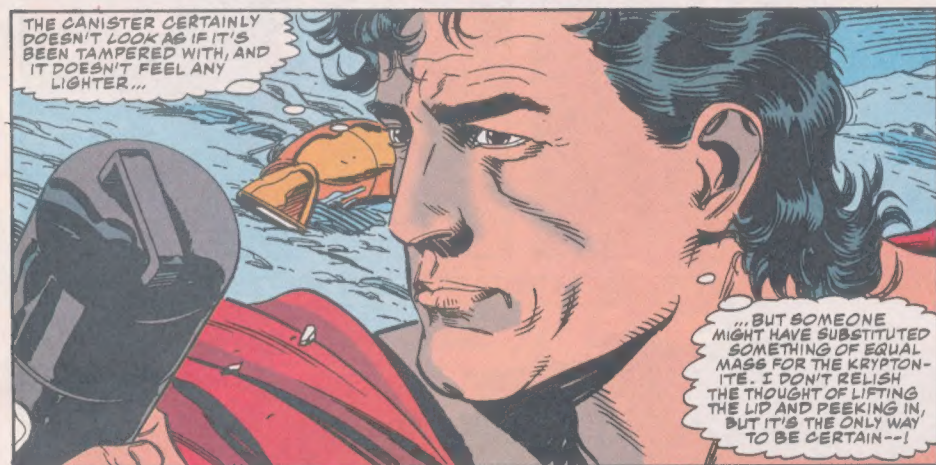


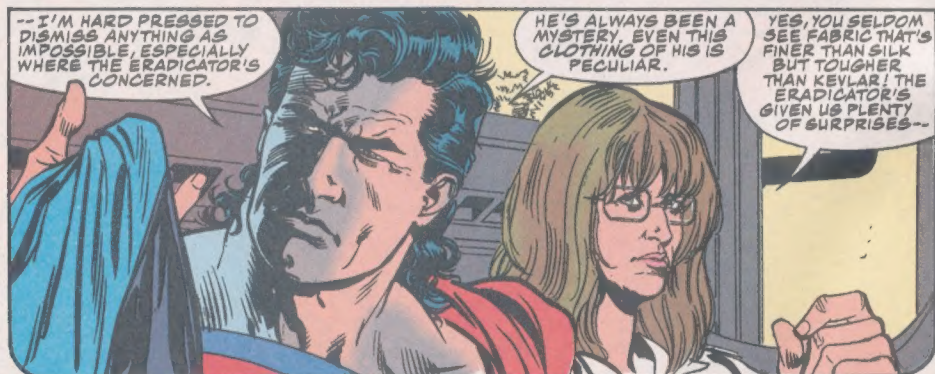
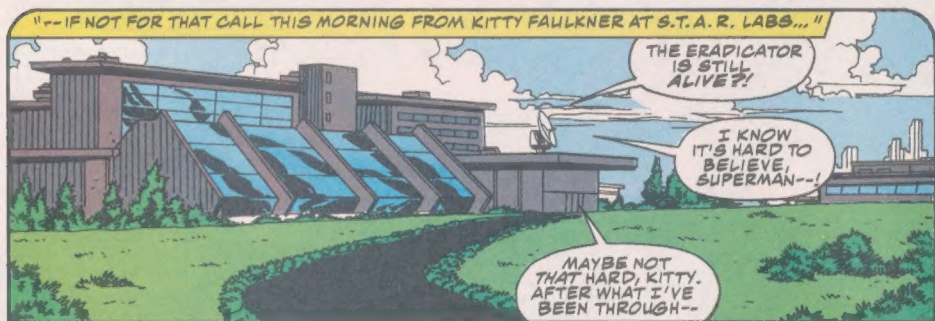
OH, LORD... IF WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FOUND THE CANISTER--!

NO, THANK GOD. I CAN SEE THAT IT'S STILL BURIED IN THE ICE OF THAT WALL.

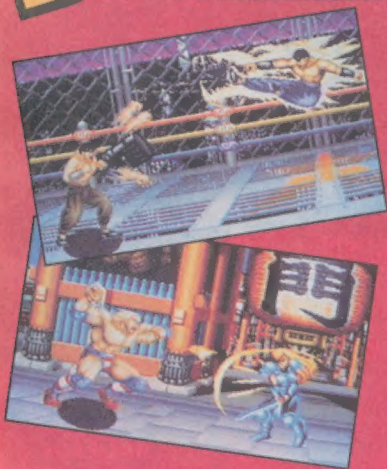


IT MUST BE INTACT, OTHERWISE I'D ALREADY BE GETTING A SICK FEELING FROM THE KRYPTONITE INSIDE...





EAT. SLEEP.



SUNSOFT®

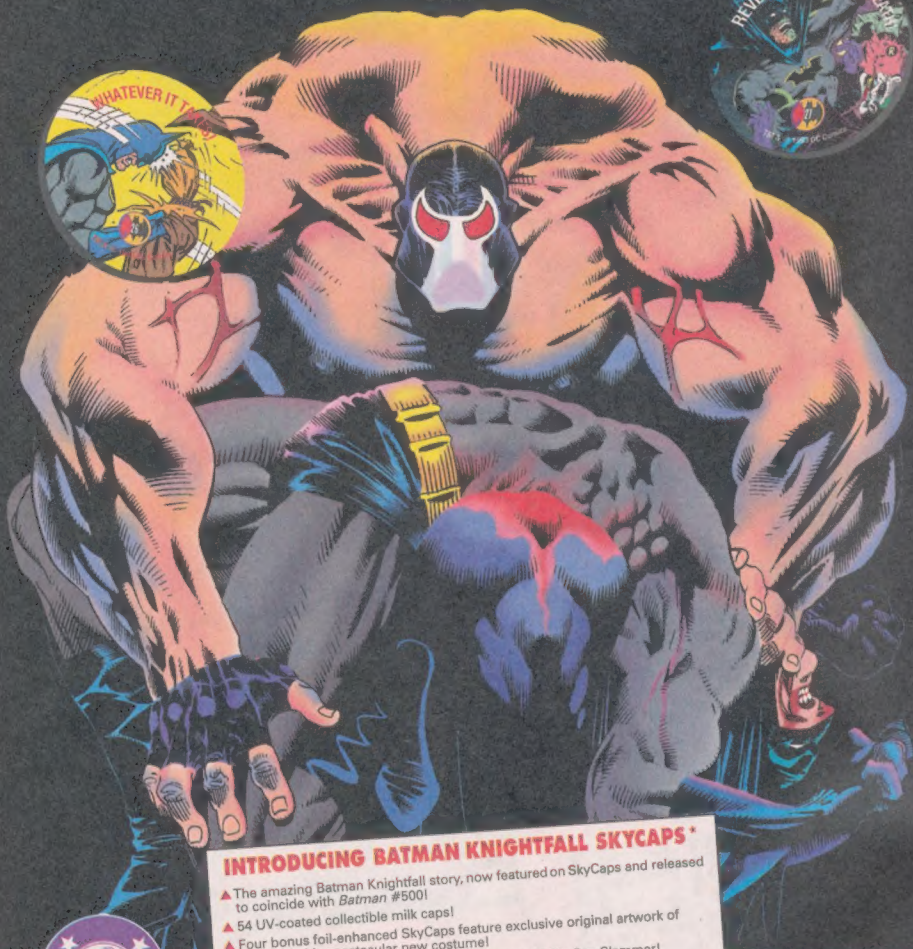
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--NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS HIS CURRENT CONDITION.

FROM THE MOMENT HE WAS TURNED OVER TO US, I HAD A GUT FEELING THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SPARK OF LIFE LEFT IN HIM-- BUT EVEN I'VE BEEN SURPRISED BY HIS RATE OF IMPROVEMENT.

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. THE ENERGY THAT POURED THROUGH HIM DURING OUR SHOWDOWN WITH THE ROGUE CYBORG RESTORED MY POWERS TO THEIR PEAK LEVELS, BUT LEFT HIM LITTLE MORE THAN A LIFE-LESS HUSK.

NOW... HE LOOKS ALMOST ROBUSTLY HEALTHY. HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE. IN FACT, WE WERE HOPING THAT YOU COULD HELP ENLIGHTEN US ON THAT SCORE.

OH, SUPERMAN... I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET--

"--DOCTOR DAVID CONNOR, ONE OF OUR TOP XENOBIOLOGISTS."

DOCTOR CONNOR-- YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE ERADICATOR'S CASE?

THAT I AM, SIR. HE'S RESPONDED PHENOMENALLY WELL TO TREATMENT--

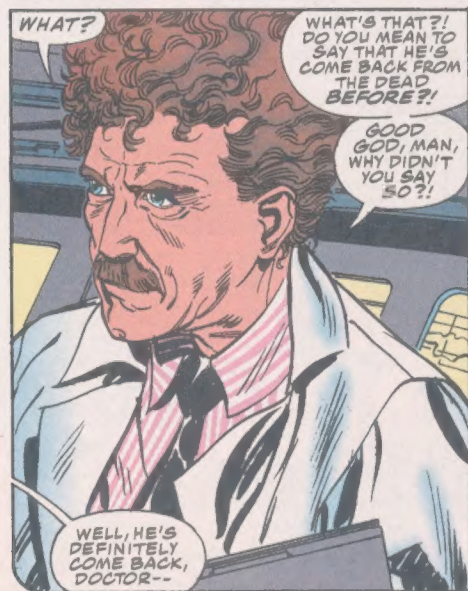
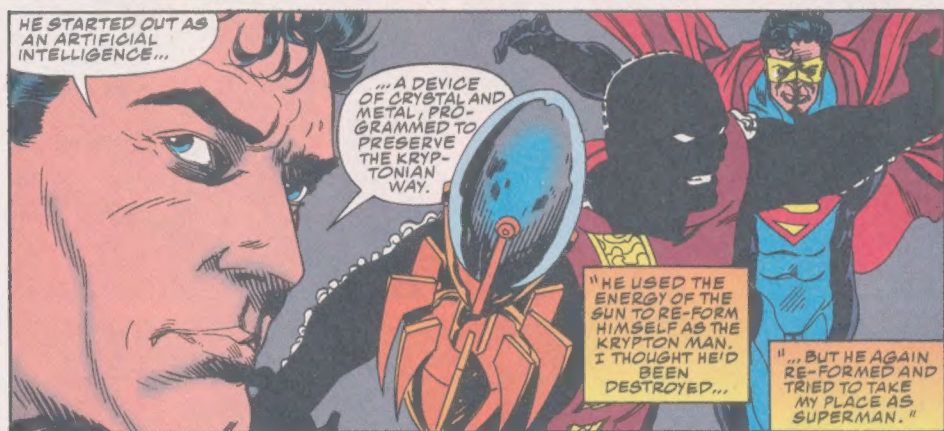
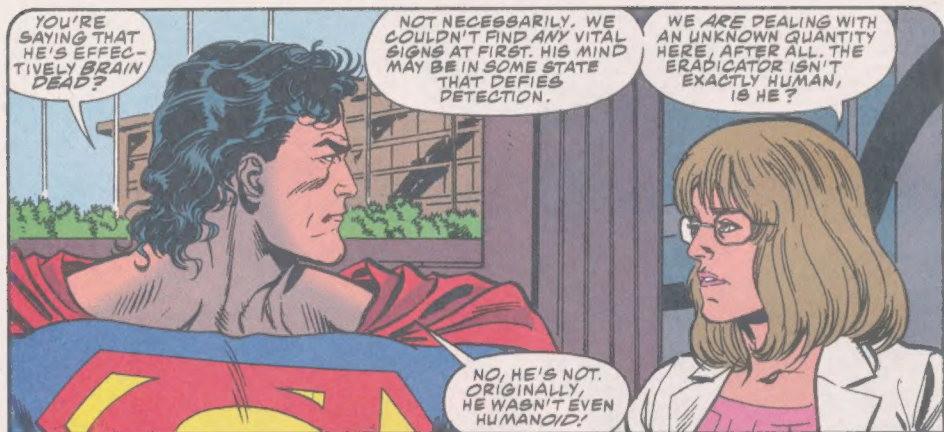
--AT LEAST HIS BODY HAS.

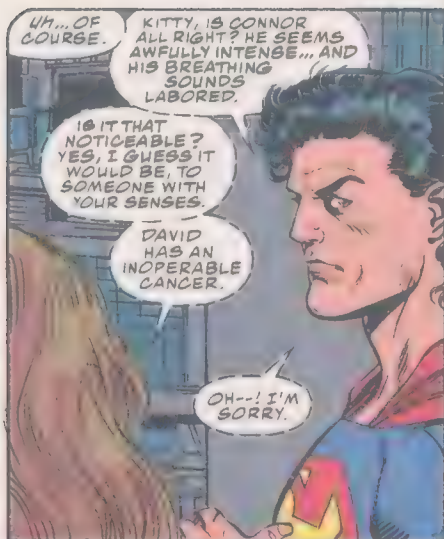
HE'S NOW BREATHING ON HIS OWN-- DEEPLY AND STEADILY. HIS CELLULAR RESPIRATION IS INCREDIBLY EFFICIENT. AND HIS HEARTBEAT--!

"HE HAS THE PULSE OF A WORLD-CLASS MARATHON RUNNER!"

BUT WE'VE FOUND NO SIGNS OF MENTAL ACTIVITY BEYOND THE BASIC BRAIN-STEM RESPONSE. NO SIGN OF HIGHER CEREBRAL FUNCTIONS AT ALL.

WE'VE TRIED MILD BRAIN STIMULUS, BUT THE MOST WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PROVOKE WERE REFLEX MUSCLE TWITCHES.





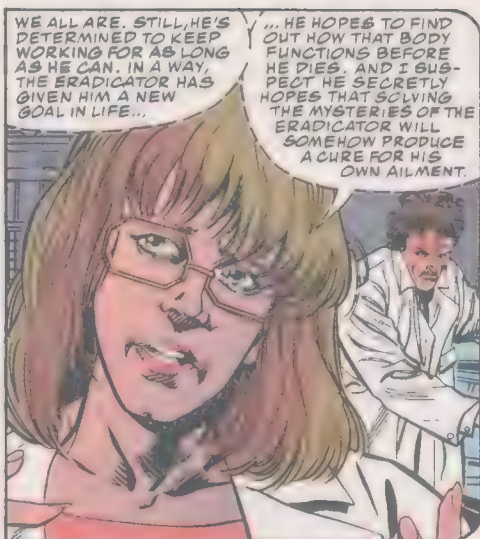
UH... OF COURSE.

KITTY, IS CONNOR ALL RIGHT? HE SEEMS AWFULLY INTENSE... AND HIS BREATHING SOUNDS LABORED.

IS IT THAT NOTICEABLE? YES, I GUESS IT WOULD BE TO SOMEONE WITH YOUR SENSES.

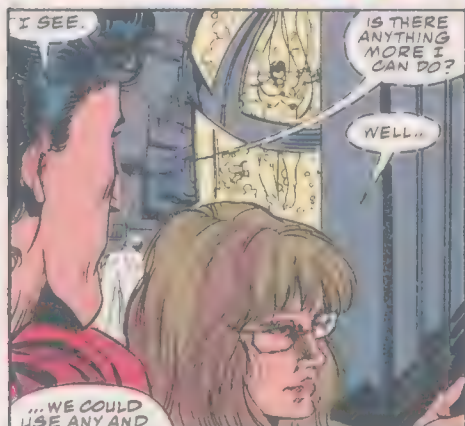
DAVID HAS AN INOPERABLE CANCER.

OH--! I'M SORRY.



WE ALL ARE. STILL, HE'S DETERMINED TO KEEP WORKING FOR AS LONG AS HE CAN. IN A WAY, THE ERADICATOR HAS GIVEN HIM A NEW GOAL IN LIFE...

... HE HOPES TO FIND OUT HOW THAT BODY FUNCTIONS BEFORE HE DIES. AND I SUSPECT HE SECRETLY HOPES THAT SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF THE ERADICATOR WILL SOMEHOW PRODUCE A CURE FOR HIS OWN AILMENT.



I SEE.

IS THERE ANYTHING MORE I CAN DO?

WELL...

... WE COULD USE ANY AND ALL RAW DATA ON THE ERADICATOR, IF SUCH EXISTS.



hmm... IT JUST MIGHT.

THERE'S A PLACE I COULD CHECK--



"-- IN THE ANTARCTIC --"

SORRY, KITTY... BUT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH ANY SECRETS OF THE ERADICATOR DIED WITH THE FORTRESS.

THE ONLY THINGS LEFT ACTIVE IN THIS PLACE WERE THE KRYPTONITE BULLETS. THEY WERE ALL STILL IN THE CANISTER, THANK GOD.

AS SOON AS I FINISH SEALING IT AWAY IN THIS DEBRIS, I'LL BURY IT...

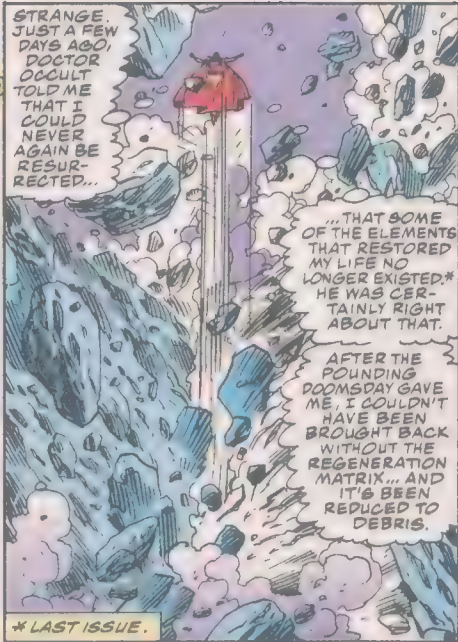
"...ALONG WITH THE REMAINS OF THIS FORTRESS!"



THIS IS
THE END
OF IT.

THE LAST
REMAINING
FRAGMENTS OF
KRYPTONIAN
TECHNOLOGY ARE
GONE FOREVER.

STRANGE.
JUST A FEW
DAYS AGO,
DOCTOR
OCULT
TOLD ME
THAT I
COULD
NEVER
AGAIN BE
RESUR-
RECTED...



"...THAT SOME
OF THE ELEMENTS
THAT RESTORED
MY LIFE NO
LONGER EXISTED.*
HE WAS CER-
TAINLY RIGHT
ABOUT THAT.

AFTER THE
POUNDING
DOOMSDAY GAVE
ME, I COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
BROUGHT BACK
WITHOUT THE
REGENERATION
MATRIX... AND
IT'S BEEN
REDUCED TO
DEBRIS.

* LAST ISSUE.

BEFORE LONG, THE
DEPRESSION WILL
FILL IN, AND THERE'LL
BE NOTHING TO MARK
THIS SPOT. HOW
DOES THAT
POEM GO--?



"SOME SAY THE
WORLD WILL END IN
FIRE, SOME SAY IN
ICE. FROM WHAT
I'VE TASTED OF
DESIRE..."

"...I HOLD WITH THOSE
WHO FAVOR FIRE."



LOOKS
LIKE I
GOT BACK
TO THE
CITY JUST
IN TIME...



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Ninjak 1 (Chromium cover) 3.50/2.95	- Special - 3 or more 2.50
All new series! Stunning Joe Quesada art!	
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Includes a special 16-page Armored! #1	

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Novo's back in this new series! 48 pages! Gold cover!		Great 48 page issue! Includes origin of Armored!	

VALIANT

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IMAGE

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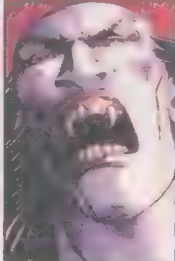
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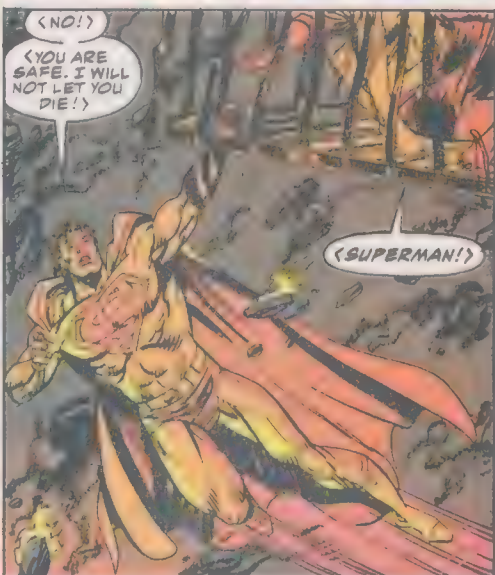
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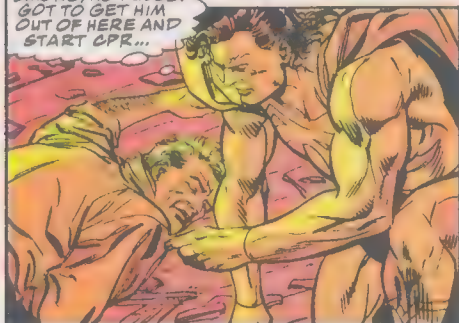
"... HE'S AT THE OLD WINDSOR HOTEL ON 34TH STREET. SPREAD THE WORD TO THE FAITHFUL!"

THOSE WOMEN I RESCUED SAID THAT THEY HEARD A SERIES OF MUFFLED EXPLOSIONS JUST BEFORE THE FIRE STARTED. THIS LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE ARSON.

THIS BUILDING'S BEEN CONDEMNED FOR SOME TIME. I WONDER IF WHOEVER TORCHED THE PLACE KNEW THAT THERE WAS AN ILLEGAL SWEATSHOP ON THE UPPER FLOORS?

LORD, THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE TRAPPED IN HERE!

JUST A BOY... CAN'T BE MORE THAN SIXTEEN... LUNGS FULL OF SMOKE, NO PULSE! GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE AND START CPR...

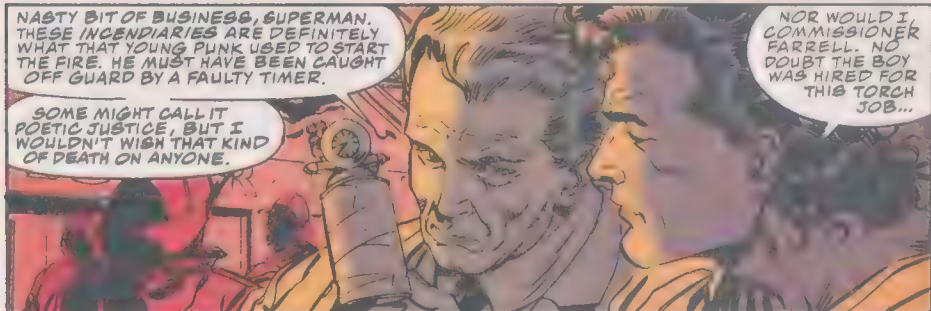


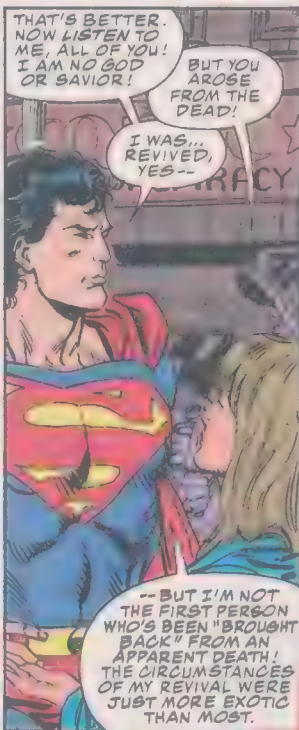
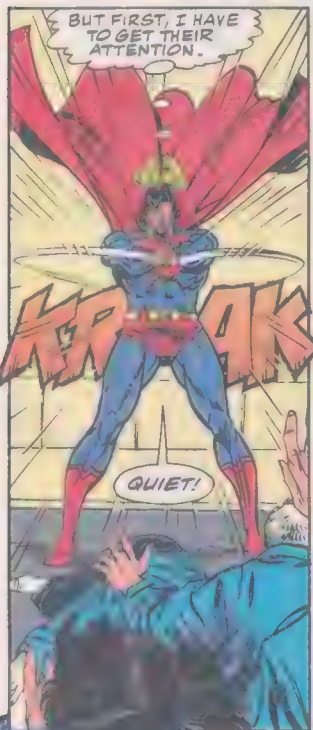
...EH? WHAT'S THIS?!

NASTY BIT OF BUSINESS, SUPERMAN. THESE INCENDIARIES ARE DEFINITELY WHAT THAT YOUNG PUNK USED TO START THE FIRE. HE MUST HAVE BEEN CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY A FAULTY TIMER.

SOME MIGHT CALL IT POETIC JUSTICE, BUT I WOULDN'T WISH THAT KIND OF DEATH ON ANYONE.

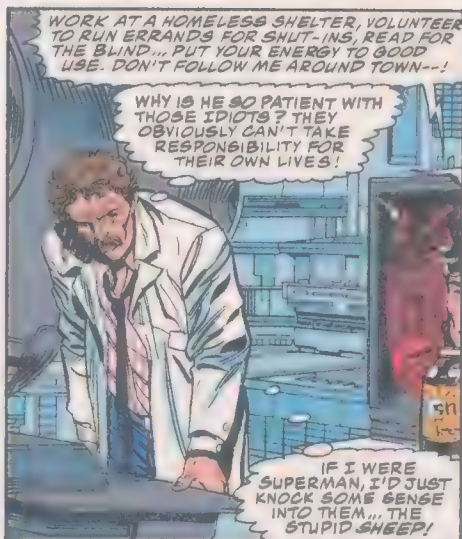
NOR WOULD I, COMMISSIONER FARRELL. NO DOUBT THE BOY WAS HIRED FOR THIS TORCH JOB...







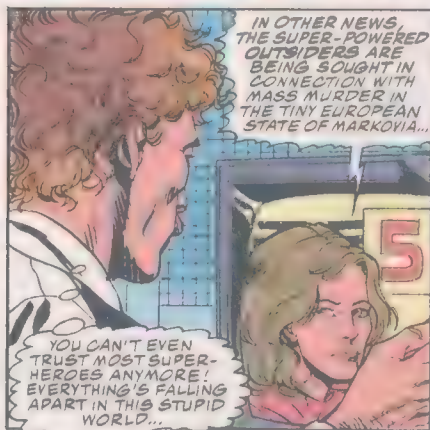
WORSHIPING ME WILL DO NO GOOD. IF YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, THEN HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED.



WORK AT A HOMELESS SHELTER, VOLUNTEER TO RUN ERRANDS FOR SHUT-INS, READ FOR THE BLIND... PUT YOUR ENERGY TO GOOD USE. DON'T FOLLOW ME AROUND TOWN--!

WHY IS HE SO PATIENT WITH THOSE IDIOTS? THEY OBVIOUSLY CAN'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN LIVES!

IF I WERE SUPERMAN, I'D JUST KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO THEM... THE STUPID SHEEP!

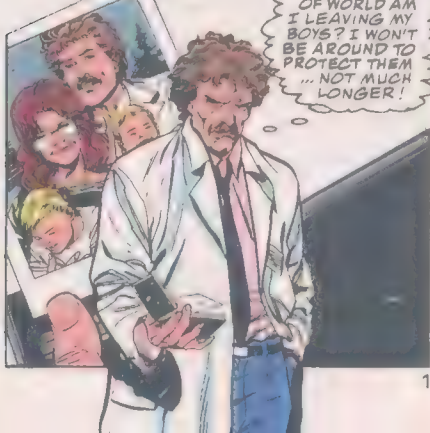


IN OTHER NEWS, THE SUPER-POWERED OUTSIDERS ARE BEING SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH MASS MURDER IN THE TINY EUROPEAN STATE OF MARKOVIA...

YOU CAN'T EVEN TRUST MOST SUPER-HEROES ANYMORE! EVERYTHING'S FALLING APART IN THIS STUPID WORLD...

... MARRIAGE FALLS APART, FAMILIES FALL APART, BODIES FALL APART. ONLY CANCER KEEPS GROWING. THAT, AND THE NUMBER OF CROOKS AND CREEPS AND KOOKS... THEY'RE JUST A DIFFERENT KIND OF CANCER!

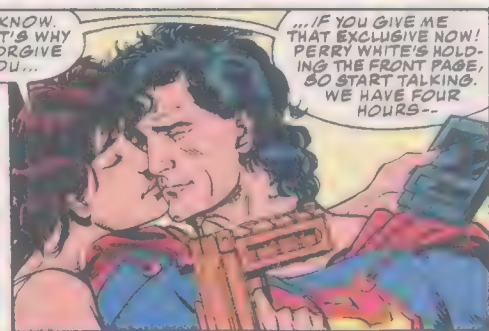
WHAT SORT OF WORLD AM I LEAVING MY BOYS? I WON'T BE AROUND TO PROTECT THEM ... NOT MUCH LONGER!



... THE MOST I CAN DO IS LEAVE THEM FINANCIALLY PROTECTED THROUGH MY PATENTS. I'VE ALREADY ARRANGED A DECENT NEST EGG FOR THEM--

-- BUT I'LL GUARANTEE THEIR SECURITY IF I UNWRAP YOUR MYSTERIES, MR. ERADICATOR.

I MUST SUCCEED... I MUST! IF I CAN JUST HANG ON, I KNOW I CAN DO IT...



"--TO MAKE THE MORNING EDITION!"

IF EVERYBODY'S FINISHED READING THE DAILY PLANET, CAN WE PLEASE GET BACK TO WORK? WE STILL HAVE A NOON NEWSCAST TO PREPARE!

SUPERMAN LOOKS SO SEXY WITH HIS HAIR LONGER. YOU OUGHT TO GROW YOUR HAIR, LARRY.

GOOD MORNING, WGBS...

...WHO CAN.

MS. GRANT? I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN PRIVATE, PLEASE.

"MS. GRANT"? WHAT'S VINNIE UP TO NOW?!

OF COURSE, MR. EDGE.

D'YOU REALLY THINK SO, CAT?

SURE, IT'S THE LATEST FASHION. EVERYBODY'S DOING IT...

HAVE A SEAT. THAT WAS QUITE AN ARTICLE LOIS LANE WROTE, WASN'T IT?

IT CERTAINLY WAS. I WISH I COULD DELIVER SOMETHING THAT GOOD.

THAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. THERE AREN'T MANY PAPERS LIKE THE PLANET WHICH STILL FEATURE IN-DEPTH REPORTING. IT'S TIME FOR TELEVISION TO PICK UP THE SLACK...

...AND AS C.E.O. I COULD ARRANGE FOR YOU TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT. YOU DELIVER FOR ME, KITTY-CAT, AND I'LL DELIVER FOR YOU.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, hmmm?

LOOK, VINNIE, I'VE HAD DINNER WITH YOU A COUPLE OF TIMES, BUT THAT'S WHERE I DRAW THE LINE - SO KEEP YOUR WANDERING HANDS TO YOURSELF!

DON'T PLAY INNOCENT WITH ME, CAT! I'VE SEEN HOW YOU FLIRT.

ALL RIGHT, SO I FLIRT...

... BUT I DON'T FORCE MY ATTENTIONS ON SOMEONE WHO'S NOT INTERESTED. YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME--

--BECAUSE I AM MOST DEFINITELY NOT INTERESTED IN YOU... OR YOUR "ARRANGEMENT!"

SLIMY, SMARLY JERK!

YOU, TOO, HUH? YOU SHOULD'VE HEARD THE LINE HE USED ON ME!

WHAT? YOU MEAN HE--?

HONEY, HE'LL HIT ON ANYONE WHO'S FEMALE, DAY OR--

"--NIGHT."

GOD, I FEEL
AWFUL. I
NEED MORE
MEDICATION...
BUT IF I UP
THE DOSAGE,
I'LL BE TOO
GROGGY TO
WORK.

JOURNAL
ENTRY 137... THE
MORE ENERGY I
POUR INTO THE
ERADICATOR, THE
STRONGER HE
GETS... BUT HIS
BRAIN... STILL WON'T
RESPOND!

IT'S INFURIATING...
TO THINK OF THAT
POWERFUL FRAME...
FLOATING HERE...
MINDLESS WHILE
I'M STUCK IN A
DYING BODY--!

AUUGH!!

GET UP,
YOU DAMN FOOL!
IGNORE THE PAIN
AND SEE THIS
THROUGH TO
THE END!

NO... OH,
NO...

DANGER

ORD

WING

NEEP
NEEP
NEEP!

...FELL AGAINST
THE #570X!! SWITCHES!
GOT TO RESET... BUT...

...CAN'T
MAKE MY
HANDS
WORK.

NO...
IT ISN'T
FAIR!

I CAN'T
DIE NOW...



"...I'VE GOT TO
"STOP THIS...
BEFORE..."

"...OH,
DEAR
GOD."

"WHAT
HAVE I
DONE?!"

SKRATOOM!

*Imagine the complete
and total destruction
of the planet Earth...*

and the fun doesn't have to stop there!



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Authorized, approved and enjoyed by Douglas Adams

Approved by Byron Preiss Visual Media, Inc.





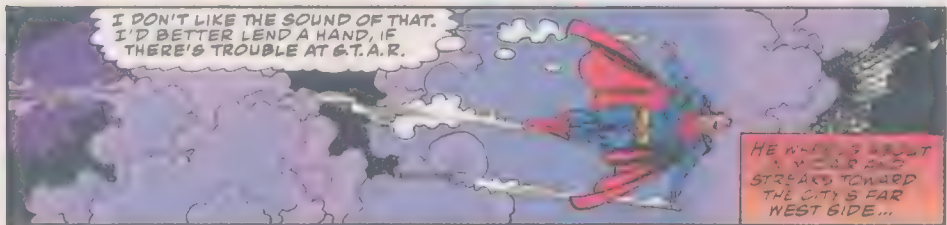
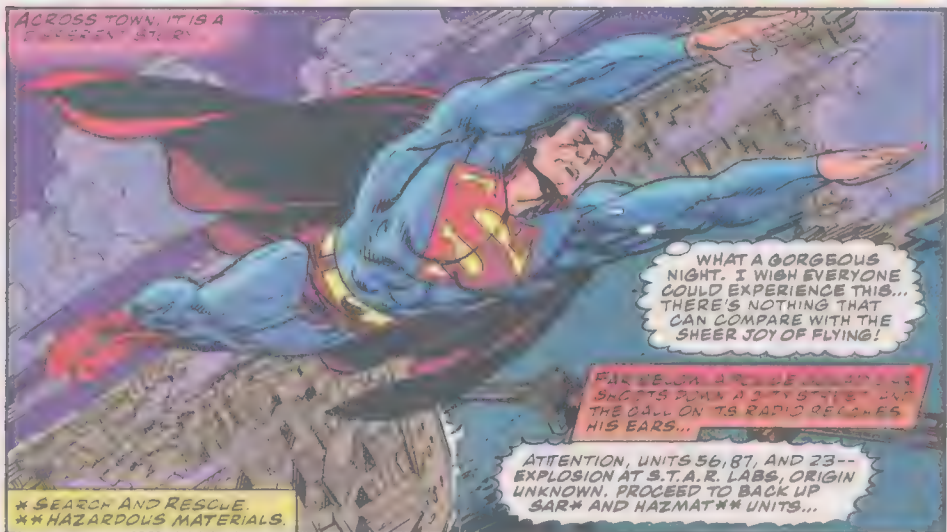
HIS DARKEST TRAGEDY.
HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH.
HIS RITE OF PASSAGE.

ROBIN

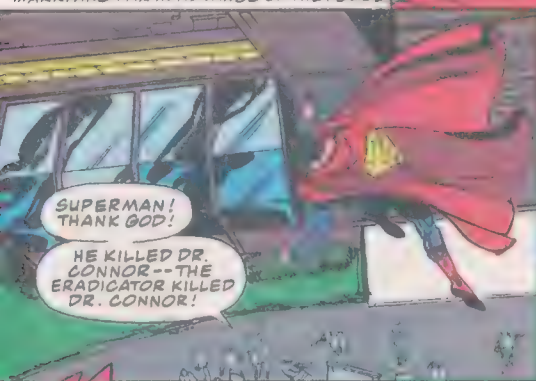
TRAGEDY & TRIUMPH

Collects the storylines "Rite of Passage" and "The Joker's Wild."



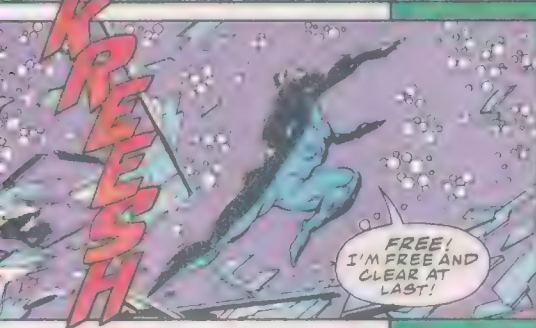


...ARRIVING FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE POLICE



SUPERMAN!
THANK GOD!

HE KILLED DR.
CONNOR--THE
ERADICATOR KILLED
DR. CONNOR!



FREE!
I'M FREE AND
CLEAR AT
LAST!



IT'S WORSE THAN I FEARED
HE MUST HAVE TAKEN
TOTAL LEAVE OF HIS SENSES
-- WHY ELSE WOULD HE
KILL CONNOR?!

THE POWER
IS MINE... ALL
MINE! NOTHING
CAN STOP ME
NOW.



WRONG!
I'M HERE
TO STOP
YOU--
NOW!

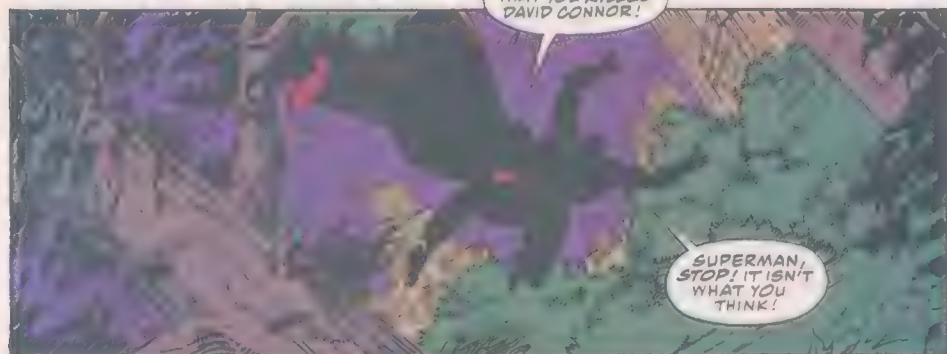
WHAT?!
NO!!



LET ME GO!!

GYAHHH!

EH? SUPERMAN?!



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WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE BLOODLINES HERO?

By now you've seen this year's DC Universe Annuals event: **BLOODLINES!** Who's your favorite? Write in (c/o DC Universe Page) and cast your ballot. Just in case you've lost track, here are the heroes and the annuals they appeared in:

- **LAYLA**—Tough-as-nails space explorer (**LOBO**)
- **EDGE**—Blade-hurling community hero (**MAN OF STEEL**)
- **JOE PUBLIC**—Strength-siphoning patriot (**SHADOW OF THE BAT**)
- **ARGUS**—Shadow-melding undercover agent (**FLASH**)
- **ANIMA**—Animus-summoning Grunge rocker (**NEW TITANS**)
- **MYRIAD**—Personality-absorbing assassin (**SUPERMAN**)
- **NIGHTBLADE**—Regenerating martial artist (**GREEN LANTERN**)
- **BALLISTIC**—Armed and dangerous vigilante (**BATMAN**)
- **LIONHEART**—Armored hi-tech knight (**JLI**)
- **RAZORSHARP**—Sword-armed hacker (**ROBIN**)
- **LOOSE CANNON**—Super-strong ex-cop (**ACTION COMICS**)
- **JAMM**—Prodigious surfer-dude (**LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**)
- **HOOK**—Hook-handed former soldier (**GREEN ARROW**)
- **GEIST**—The ghostly night-hero (**DETECTIVE COMICS**)
- **TERRORSMITH**—Monster-making villain (?) (**JLA**)
- **SPARX**—Lightning-wielding hero (**ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN**)
- **MONGREL**—Darkforce-blasting rebel (**HAWKMAN**)
- **GUNFIRE**—Hi-tech renegade (**DEATHSTROKE**)
- **PRISM**—Light-manipulating scientist (**ECLIPSO**)
- **HITMAN**—The name sez it all! (**DEMON**)
- **CARDINAL SIN**—Disillusioned priest (**LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT**)
- **CHIMERA**—Illusion-creating hero (**TEAM TITANS**)
- **PAX**—Last of his race, space-shaman (L.E.G.I.O.N. '93)

PUNISHING ELEMENTS



Ever since we made plans to have a **METAMORPHO** miniseries, the office was buzzing with Metamorpho puns. Come to think of it, some of them were even funny. Here are just a few.

- ✱ If Metamorpho were ruler of the Dream Dimension?
METAMORPHEUS
- ✱ A team of element people?
METAMORPHORCE
- ✱ A living elemental vampire?
METAMORBIUS
- ✱ An elemental impostor?
METAMORPHONEY

So just save yourself the lousy puns and buy the **METAMORPHO** miniseries. We guarantee you'll get **METAMOR-PHO-YOUR-MONEY!** (Ugh!)

DC BULLETS

It seems like we're breeding the next generation of comic-book editors. Not one, but two, count 'em, two DC editors are proud papas. First to the finish line was **Nadine Augustyn**. Brian's wife gave birth in June to a bouncing baby girl. **JUSTICE LEAGUE** editor Brian and Nadine are the proud parents of Allison Marie Augustyn. Their 3-year-old daughter Carrie is just glad she now has someone to talk with. You can be sure that Brian's baby dialogue in his upcoming **BLACK MASK** miniseries will be accurate.

Joining the Augustyns are **Eddie** and **Cheryl Berganza**. Cheryl gave birth to Matthew Logan Berganza. A big *Star Wars* fan, **GREEN LANTERN** assistant editor Eddie wanted to name the baby Han if it was a boy. His daughter's name is Lia and his dog's named Chewie.

LOBO editor **Dan Raspler** got promoted to Senior Editor. No, not senior editor! Dan will be bossing around new DC Universe editor **Paul Kupperberg**. Paul crossed over from our Development Group to edit the new **JUDGE DREDD** and **JUDGE DREDD: LEGENDS OF THE LAW** titles as well as several new projects. You'll remember Paul as the writer of **DOOM PATROL**, **ARION**, and **CHECKMATE**. You'll remember Dan, 'cuz he's the one with the attitude.

Since we mentioned **BLOODLINES** this DCU Page, it's only fitting that we mention some of the unusing people that put the SkyBox-BLOODLINES Card Set together. **DEATHSTROKE** colorist **Tom McCraw** painted the entire set on blue-line. **Bhob Stewart**, of our Special Projects department edited the 81-card set.



--NOT THIS TIME!

IT'S NO DELUSIONNNN!

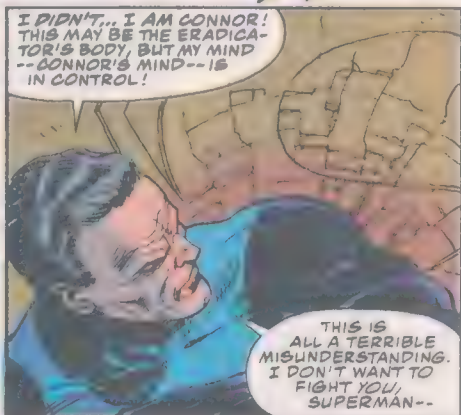
WHAMP!

WRACK



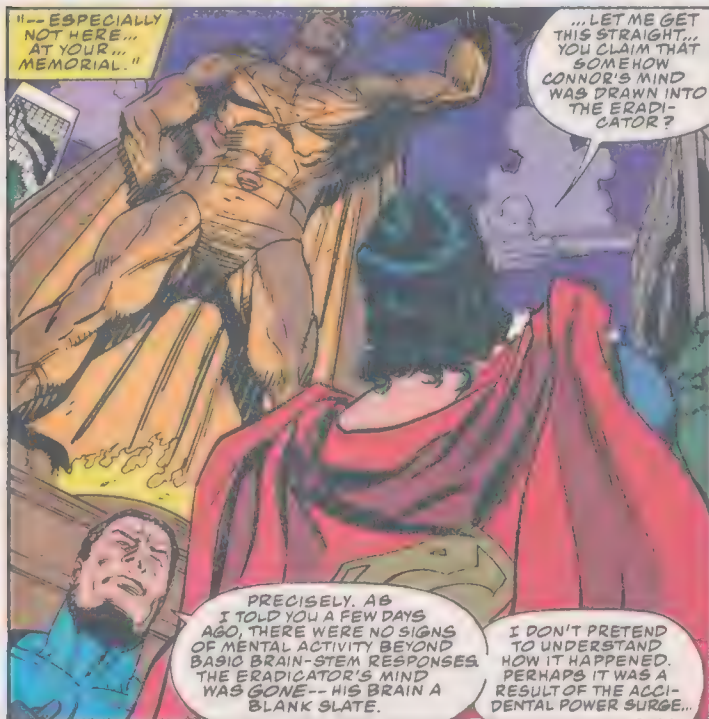
ALL RIGHT, DON'T TRY ANYTHING FURTHER. I WANT SOME ANSWERS.

WHY DID YOU KILL CONNOR?



I DIDN'T... I AM CONNOR! THIS MAY BE THE ERADicator's BODY, BUT MY MIND--CONNOR'S MIND--IS IN CONTROL!

THIS IS ALL A TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING. I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU, SUPERMAN--



"--ESPECIALLY NOT HERE... AT YOUR MEMORIAL."

...LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOU CLAIM THAT SOMEHOW CONNOR'S MIND WAS DRAWN INTO THE ERADicator?

PRECISELY. AS I TOLD YOU A FEW DAYS AGO, THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF MENTAL ACTIVITY BEYOND BASIC BRAIN-STEM RESPONSES. THE ERADicator's MIND WAS GONE--HIS BRAIN A BLANK SLATE.

I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAPPENED. PERHAPS IT WAS A RESULT OF THE ACCIDENTAL POWER SURGE...



...BUT, HOWEVER IT HAPPENED, I'M NOT COMPLAINING. MY OLD BODY WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED MUCH LONGER. AND NOW... NOW I HAVE ALL THIS POWER!

WELL, IF YOU ARE REALLY DOCTOR CONNOR, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THAT WE'LL NEED TO CHECK YOU OVER--TO RUN SOME TESTS TO VERIFY--!

NO MORE TESTS! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF DOCTORS AND EXAMINATIONS TO LAST A LIFETIME. I INTEND TO PUT MY NEW POWER TO GOOD USE-- IMMEDIATELY!

THERE ARE TOO MANY CRIMINALS AT LARGE, SOME WITH POWERS OF THEIR OWN. IT'S TIME THAT SOMEONE CUT THEM DOWN--

--TOOK SOME VENGEANCE FOR THEIR VICTIMS!

VENGEANCE? THAT'S THE ERADICATOR TALKING.

NO, THAT'S DAVID CONNOR TALKING. IF THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE ERADICATOR, MAYBE I HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH HIM THAN JUST THIS BODY.

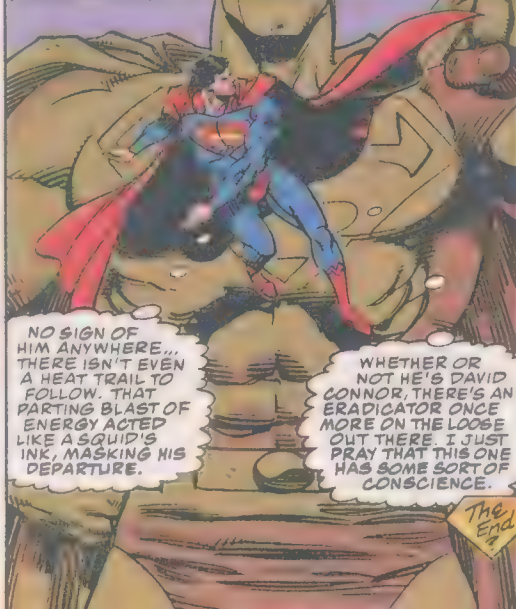


CONNOR, COME BACK! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING, SUPERMAN. DON'T EVEN TRY TO STOP ME.



MOMENTS LATER...



NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE... THERE ISN'T EVEN A HEAT TRAIL TO FOLLOW. THAT PARTING BLAST OF ENERGY ACTED LIKE A SQUID'S INK, MASKING HIS DEPARTURE.

WHETHER OR NOT HE'S DAVID CONNOR, THERE'S AN ERADICATOR ONCE MORE ON THE LOOSE OUT THERE. I JUST PRAY THAT THIS ONE HAS SOME SORT OF CONSCIENCE.

The End

REACTION

DC COMICS

1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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Dear Comic Commandos:

I haven't written to a comic book before, but after reading the explosive ACTION COMICS #689 the pen and pad just called to me. I don't know if British readers were more stunned and saddened at the death of Superman than American readers, but as a British reader I can say that I was totally enthralled with this issue. I could feel the tension leap out of the comic. Stern has, once again, done a magnificent job of conveying the emotions of the stars of the issue. The fight in this issue is inevitable when a man who feels his name is being wrongly used meets a man who believes he is honoring the SUPERMAN symbol. Magic. Stern is magic.

Guice and Rodier's artwork shines throughout the whole issue ranging from dramatic on pages 2 and 3 to emotional frustration on page 12.

The great plot and storyline make me really feel for Lois. Her emotions are being torn from pillar to post with no one to turn to. This must be hell for her. Surely an emotional breakdown must ensue.

All four SUPERMAN titles are comics at the peak of perfection, but ACTION shines through for me. Cheers, mate!

Andrew Beeching
Kent, England

Dear DC:

Wow! Where do I start? How about by saying you have created the most excellent story ever! You have made comic-book history! Every issue is intense! I believe everyone deserves credit for this work of art. The whole story is better than any movie or TV show or comic alive! The characters seem so real, you feel that the whole thing is actually happening! That's how a comic book should be! Doomsday is the most excellent foe for Superman! Doomsday is the kind of foe you just love to hate! All the new Supermen: Last Son of Krypton, Man of Steel, Cyborg Supes and Superboy—er, man!—All great! Can't be topped! Although I admit I'd like to see Supergirl throw old Lex out a window, well, he really nerves me. But that's good! That shows that people feel for the characters. I've just got done reading ACTION #689. I think you should

give Lois superpowers just so she could whip all the Supermen into line. Wouldn't that be something?

I can describe every character to the T, but why? Let's just say they're all great! Just imagine if Doomsday gets free from that asteroid! He'd shake his head and think he was a little woozy from the fight if he saw four Supermen standing before him! As for the new alien stalking to crush Superman under his heel, what a surprise he's gonna get! He's going to have to get more heels! He seems familiar, but I can't place him.

I can't wait to find out who the real Supes is, though I have a good idea! Of course, I wouldn't want to give it away if I was right! We'll all find out eventually. A lot of the fun is waiting!

I've been trying to keep up with all the issues. I have all of them from the Death of Superman on. I also have many older issues, and my aunt has the very first SUPERMAN issue ever! I tried to get it from her, but she won't let go! But of all the issues, like I said, these newest have topped the cake! The only issue I can't get is MAN OF STEEL #23. I live so far from the bookstore and have no car, so I missed it! Needless to say, I was super-mad! I draw my own super-hero comics, but when I got hold of all the SUPERMAN issues I was jealous! I thought my stories were good. BAH! Super humbug! Now I'm far more interested in the SUPERMAN titles, too interested to do my own comics! Gee, thanks. I've read a lot of the letters you get and I think I speak for every Superman fan when I say that all of you deserve awards and a big platinum "S" yourselves for the great work! Keep it up!

Paul Krupski
Gladstone, MI

Dear Mike:

I have been reading SUPERMAN comics religiously since his 1987 rebirth, and it took his 1993 rebirth to make me finally write to you. First I would just like to say that the stories and the artwork remain as fantastic as ever, but what I wanted to write about is the nagging question that is going through everyone's minds, "Who is the real Superman?"

To voice my opinions on the subject, it is necessary to tell you about

my relationship with Superman through the years. I read SUPERMAN first as a child of the '70s. I remember that back then, the character of Clark Kent was a disguise to allow Superman to act as a normal human and to interact with other humans. Clark Kent was not a real person. In the early '80s, when I was in high school, Superman's books were plagued with a lack of drama. This was attributed to the character of Superman being too powerful. Writers were doing a succession of imaginary "what if?" stories instead of telling the story of Superman's exploits. Then came John Byrne and Superman's rebirth. I have not missed an issue since MAN OF STEEL #1, and I refer to the mini-series, not the current monthly. The greatest of all the changes made, in my opinion, was that Clark Kent became a person, and Superman became a disguise.

And thus is answered the question "Who is the real Superman?" In my opinion as long as Clark Kent is dead, none of them deserve to call themselves the true Superman. I beg of you, please bring back the real hero of these fabulous four-color pages. Bring back Clark Kent.

Of the four Supermen, ACTION COMICS' "Last Son of Krypton" seems to have the most potential from which Clark could emerge. It would probably only take the inevitable confrontation with the man who brought him back to the world of the living. He needs his Pa to scold him and say "That ain't the way we brought you up, boy." It was Clark for whom Jonathan braved the fire of the afterlife. His son still has not come back. Don't let an old man down.

Aaron R. Abrams
Huntington Beach, CA

Dear Superman Super-Team:

I liked this issue. It was creative and funny with a little negativity.

I think the real Superman is "Shades." The Man of Steel is the most obvious fake. Take off all that armor and you have yourself a typical human. Superbo—er, man is a clone (and proud of it) from Cadmus. A clone is not the exact same thing, but close. So the youngest Superman cannot be him. The Cyborg, hmmm, this is going to be

tricky. The Cyborg has Kryptonian technology as the basis for his bionics and Kryptonian DNA as the basis for his skin. Maybe Superman was only split in TWO parts. One is "Shades" and the other is the Cyborg. So the two real Supermen are the Cyborg and the Last Son of Krypton. But something tells me that the only real Superman is Shades. But he has such a bad temper. Lighten UP! He is always prejudging.

On page 21 I thought the alien menace was Doomsday, but now I don't know. This guy doesn't have bony extrusions and he actually speaks. Who is this guy?!

Brian Burke
Cambridge, MN

Dear DC Dudes:

So what's up?! I was sitting around one day trying to figure out which of the four Supermen was actually Superman, when by chance a more important question crossed my mind. Now that old Lex is his own father and has a new head of hair, does this mean that the world-renowned "Baldy Award" will have to be renamed as the "Hairy Award?" Maybe you can call it the "I-used-to-be-bald-but-now-I'm-not Award." How about the "Hey-see-my-long-red-hair Award."

Of course this follows the assumption that the highly esteemed, world-renowned Baldy Award was named after old Lex before he was reborn. If not, then who was it named after? Then again, you might just keep the name for traditional and sentimental value, or whatever.

Yet the most intriguing question of them all—More mindboggling than four Superdudes! More fascinating than the ideas of some millionaire keeping his brain in a jar to get a new body and life! Even greater than Guy Gardner sucking up to the Last Son of Krypton!—WHAT IN KRYPTON IS A BALDY AWARD???!!!! AAAAAAAHHHHHHHH!!!!!! IT IS DRIVING ME CRAZY! I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT A BALDY AWARD IS!!!! IF YOU DON'T TELL ME I'LL GO MAD! MAD, I TELL YOU! PPPLL-LEEAAAAASSEE! DON'T MAKE ME BEG!

Kenneth "Not Crazy, Just Mad"
Livngood
RSA, AL

You're right, Kenneth, the (infamous Baldy was (unofficially) named after Lex the First, who, instigated this special award in Metropolis for journalistic achievement. The official name for the Baldies is actually the Zenith Award for Integrity in Journalism (first seen during our "Dark Knight Over Metropolis" storyline a few years back). Luthor's name for the award was a bit cynical, considering the source, but it wasn't long before the even more cynical journalists of Metropolis nicknamed Luthor's Award with the

less sensitive Baldy epithet. Anyway, you'll see for yourself what a Baldy is very shortly....so don't go away mad!

Dear Mike and Co:

When I heard that there were going to be four different Supermen, I didn't really care. What I wasn't expecting, however, is how each one would play up different aspects of the Superman persona.

The cover of ACTION #689 really grabbed me. I love comparison/contrast! While I don't think I would follow the solo adventures of any of the Supermen too closely, the interaction between them is very interesting. I am especially looking forward to seeing the Kryptonian and the Cyborg Superman together.

The religious followers are an interesting development, as are the legal battles; however, I don't really see how the young Superman can win his case, since the other Supermen aren't using the name or insignia for profit.

I must admit that four different Supermen gives you guys more room for exploring different types of stories that are better suited to one of the Supermen or the other. Maintain the distinctions and things might continue to be interesting.

Michael Clem
Tulsa, OK

Dear Mike:

What is unique about Roger Stern's scripting is that he always takes time out for reaction shots. What do individuals think of the story's events? How do these fantasy elements affect average folk? His gift is to keep a finger on the pulse of the common man. This makes his stories appear fresh and tangible. While we've seen two muscle-bound individuals fight it out before, there is an infinite number of people who each have an individual reaction to a given fight. Thus, there are an infinite number of possible stories to tell based on these individuals. This is what makes his Superman/Last Son of Krypton so intriguing. In ACTION #689, even the title character takes part in a voyeuristic experience, as we see his reaction to the story's events. In addition, we readers are watching him watching the story. We become part of the framework in this manner.

I'm a little disappointed that the original Superman is returning so soon, as I'm enjoying exploring the possibilities of these new Supermen, but as we learned last November, nothing lasts forever.

Mark Lucas
Los Angeles, CA

Still disappointed, Mark? We think we played this story out to its logical length, bringing Superman back

with a vengeance! On TV (ABC weekly), radio (BBC currently—and in the American market, we hope, in some capacity) and in the comics (Better Than Ever!) 1993 has been Superman's year...and wait'll you see what we have planned for next year!

—Jennifer Frank
I know, but I won't tell ya!

NEXT WEEK: The Man of Steel is itching for action—and it's all he can do to be everywhere for everybody! God, it's good to be alive! Chuck Wojtkiewicz helps out on pencils as Louise Simonson and Dennis Janke do their usual writing and inking on MAN OF STEEL #28! Oh, and John Henry Irons makes a very important move—all in just seven days!

TWO NEXT WEEKS: The Toyman hits Metropolis again—hard enough this time to do some permanent damage! Too bad for Cat Grant and her son, Adam! Dan Jurgens writes and draws, while Josef Rubinstein continues finishing in SUPERMAN #84... available in just fourteen days!

THREE NEXT WEEKS: The "Spilled Blood" Trilogy begins as the new, improved(!), Bloodsport blasts into Superman's town thirsting for blood! Barry Kitson and Ray McCarthy make their debut as the new art team on ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #507, on sale in a measly twenty-one days! Oh...Karl Kesel still writes ADVENTURES, in case you were worried!

FOUR NEXT WEEKS (ONE MONTH FROM NOW!): The "Spilled Blood" Trilogy continues as Hi-Tech makes her dramatic return to action! It looks like she and Bloodsport are working for the same mysterious benefactor—but which of them has the better deal? Hmmmm...there's only one way to find out: be here for ACTION COMICS #694 drawn by Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier, and written by Karl Kesel in a meager twenty-eight days! (Once again, don't worry! Roger Stern needs time to do the SUPERGIRL miniseries and Karl's gonna pitch in for a couple months here! Not bad, eh!)

This issue's cover depicts the Eradicator at the DC dentist...Not!! Ed Hannigan did the sketch, Kerry Gammill did the pencils, Jackson Guice did the inks, and Susanne Bourdages did the colors! Hope you liked!



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